

Touchstone

Surrey
Earth
Mysteries

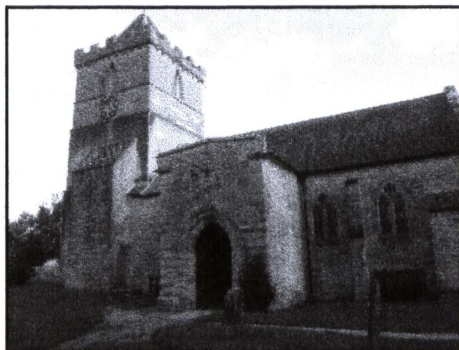


No. 86

July 2009

THE PURITON-PAWLETT POLDEN RIDGE LEYS AND WELLS DIAGONAL

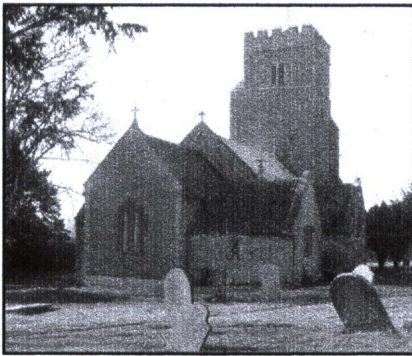
The two ancient churches of Puriton and Pawlett near Bridgwater, which my wife Doris is now responsible for as vicar, stand at the end of the Polden Ridge, running from Street to the mouth of the River Parrett. A ley running between them runs along the ridge, coincident with several stretches of a Roman road which also takes this route, linking the Fosse Way with the river mouth, where there was a port in Roman times - large quay stones have been found there. It seems likely that this was the trade route for the copper and lead mined in the Mendips since before Roman times. It was also said to be the pilgrim route to Glastonbury for pilgrims from Devon, Cornwall and Wales as well as overseas, and the route taken by Joseph of Arimathea to Glastonbury when he set up his community there and was given the twelve hides of land.



Puriton Church

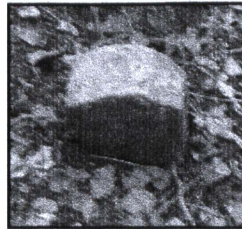
St. Michael's, Puriton was built in the time of Edward the Confessor, but the parish council site says that it is believed to be on the site of a Roman shrine (the reason for this belief is not certain). But it was certainly a populated area in Roman times - a Roman settlement was found on Puriton Hill when the M5 link road was being built, and there were villas on the end of the Poldens. Flints found in the motorway building suggest Puriton may have been continually occupied since the Mesolithic. There is a door inside the porch leading to a stairway which led to a now disappeared upper level believed to be a room for monks travelling to Glastonbury.

The Norman church of St John the Baptist, Pawlett, replaced an earlier Saxon structure and the church is thought to have been a popular station on medieval pilgrimages from Watchet to Glastonbury.



Pawlett Church

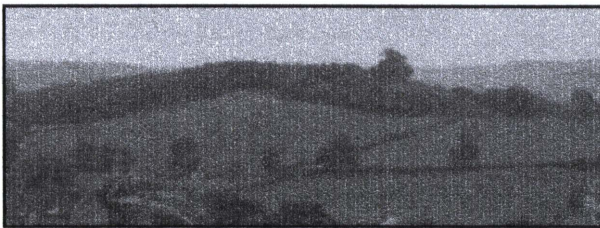
The ley runs westward from these churches along the ridge until it comes to a site called Swayne's Jumps, near the road. This is rather an enigmatic structure - a line of four tiny stones, milestone shaped but too small for that purpose. According to the legend, described in *Somerset Legends*, by Berta Lawrence, during the civil war there was a man called Jan Swayne who lived in Moorlinch.



One of the stones at Swayne's Jumps

Found to be a 'rebel' he was dragged from his bed to be taken to Bridgwater where he was to be hanged. Somehow he persuaded the troopers who came for him to untie him to show his crying children a last entertainment of how far he could leap. He took three immense leaps - a hop, skip and a jump - which took him into the impenetrable and swampy Loxley Woods where he could hide safely.

This is the point where this ley meets one of the diagonals through Wells Cathedral mentioned in the last issue - the one which also passes through St Cuthbert's and St. Thomas's churches. Strangely, the Swayne's Jumps stones are arranged across the cathedral ley, and seemingly mark its width, which is about 20 paces. Moorlinch Church nearby is also on the cathedral ley, and this was dowsed strongly there.



Pedwell Hill, possible Roman-British shrine site

The next point on the Puriton-Pawlett line is Pedwell Hill, mentioned in a previous issue of *Touchstone*, a ley centre with a prominent clump. A Romano-British site was discovered on the hill which may have been a shrine. There is also a small church in Pedwell on the line -

this was found to be now part of a private house, though the church structure has been retained.

There also seems to be a second ley running along the ridge, at a small angle to the first one, and meeting it at the ley centre at Swayne's Jumps. This goes through the motorway intersection at Puriton, then through a cross-roads on Puriton Hill, which must be close to the Roman settlement found there. It then runs closely parallel to the stretch of the Roman road along Cock Hill, the summit of the hill at Righton's Grave, the Swayne's Jumps centre,

closely mean-following a long stretch of road along Walton Hill, the Hood Monument near Compton Dundon, and a cross-roads on the Fosse Way near Keinton Mandeville. This is probably where the ridgeway would have met the Fosse Way (or its predecessor before the Romans came) to get access to the mining areas (rather than going down to Ilchester which it may have done later).

MOOT AT DORCHESTER

Dorchester, the venue for the Society of Leyhunters Moot in June, is a place particularly aware of its own history. The hillforts of Maiden Castle and Poundbury are nearby, and there is Maumbury Rings in the town itself - a Neolithic henge converted by the Romans into an amphitheatre. High banks follow the course of the Roman wall round the town, and off one of them is the beautifully preserved site of a Roman town house complete with mosaics, which I had time to visit before the moot started. It is also Thomas Hardy country of course, with his house, Max Gate.

It was held in the village of Poundbury, and began with Tim Previtt speaking on the roads and trackways of North Wales. He is a contributor to the Megalithic Portal, is a Roman tour guide in Chester and runs ghost walks in Crewe.

There is a Roman road across North Wales which developed from prehistoric through Roman to a drove road. There are also pilgrimage routes - "Llan" in place-names means a holy place. The factors involved were technology, topography and climate. The revolution of technology came when people became settled in one place.

Anglesey is dense in monoliths and Bronze Age barrows, but the megalithic tombs have disappeared. There are stones though, as trackway markers. At Bryn Caevana there are two Bronze Age cairn circles and half a dozen stones marking it.

As to cursuses, Dorset has the longest one at about six miles long, but there are a number in North Wales. The Stonehenge cursus is aligned on the equinox. The Welshpool one is now only visible as a cropmark. The best researched is one near Bangor.

Pont-y-Cromlech is mentioned by Edmund Vaddler in *Routes in North Wales*. It is on the route from Conwy to Segontium - the agger survives and is shown by the absence of gorse. St. Winifred's Holy Well is the "Our Lady of Wales" and has a pilgrimage route from Chester. There are roadside stones incised with crosses.

Bardsey Island is an equivalent to Santiago de Compostela as a place of pilgrimage, with traditionally twenty thousand saints. It had routes leading from different directions, with many holy wells.

On Anglesey there is a route with a succession of monuments, including the Thief Stone

in the centre of the island. The holiest place there is where two saints traditionally met - Holyhead. St. Guby came from the east and St. Cyriol from the west.

Peter Knight then spoke on personal experience and interaction with sites. He is co-founder of the Dorset Earth Mysteries Group, and instigated the annual Convention of Archaeology and Earth Mysteries. He is also an honorary member of the Antiquarian Society and an adult education tutor on archaeology and earth mysteries, and has written several books on the subject, including *The Wessex Astrum*, on the amazing discovery of great hexagon on the landscape found originally from the relationship of Stonehenge, Avebury and Glastonbury. He has also written *Ancient Stones of Dorset*.

He asked what was the point of ley hunting? A conference in London this year had tried to get into the mindset of the neolithic, and to deduce their cognitive makeup, but an easier solution is to go out to sacred sites and relate to the earth in a deeper and more profound way.

The shaman crosses the liminal interface to bring information and healing. The sites mean many things - perhaps all are right. We should not project our beliefs, but let the sites speak. To the shaman there is never one landscape, but rather many. We only see a small part of the universe.

Vixen Tor on Dartmoor has standing stones around, one like a head, facing Merrivale circle. The Roccia Il Funghi on Sardinia looks like a mushroom. The Hellstone Dolmen in Dorset is aligned to the midwinter sunrise. It may have been from Helis the sun god, christianised to Hell. The ruined church at Knowlton in the centre of a henge, has barrows around. The Great Barrow is late Neolithic, and represents the transition to the round style.

The Grey Mare and her Colts is a small chamber, a winter solstice shrine. The hills show the breasts of the Earth Mother. We saw a number of sites showing how they are part of the landscape, including a dolmen in Sardinia with caves behind. The defining hills of the Wessex Astrum also show this.

Einstein said we cannot solve problems by the same procedure which created them. Earth Mysteries is getting us to interact with the earth to find oneself, as in gnosis, seek to know thyself. We are part of a living planet and a conscious universe seeking self-knowledge. The universe is alive with consciousness.

Carolyn Combetti has researched into how the voice, by producing internal vibrations, can be used as a healing tool and how vocal harmonics and droned vowel sounds directed into the body can balance the entire human organism.

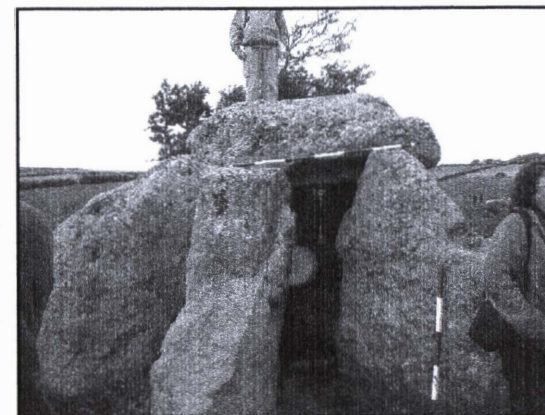
The concept of dreaming the land led back to alchemical harmony and balance - interaction

with the three symbols, the spirals of DNA, the caduceus and energy lines on man. The connection between geometry such as the Seal of Solomon and Sri Yantra mandala led to considering the two circles of perpetual choirs in England. Crop circles also seem to be involved and several were shown with appropriate geometric forms.

There was a surprise for me in the Annual General meeting which followed - I was presented with a certificate of honorary life membership of the Society. They had given me this as, with Philip Heselton, I had produced the first series of *The Ley Hunter* magazine, which started the revival of the subject in the 1960s, after Tony Wedd had enthused us with his theory of the connection of leys with UFO sightings. We thought of it all as virtually one subject at the time.

To conclude the Moot, Dean Carter, of the Centre for Pure Sound, gave a demonstration of pure sound, a hidden aspect of sound that acts on the nervous system in a different way from normal compound sounds. This was generated by Tibetan bowls, crystal bowls and other instruments, and is a sound which does not produce overtones. The Centre is dedicated to research into the practical applications of it, incorporating all aspects of the world's wisdom traditions that relate to it.

On Sunday morning we met the mini-bus at Dorchester West station for a tour of some of the local ancient sites, led by Peter Knight. We first visited the Hellstone Dolmen, one which was restored in the 1860s but which seems to be aligned to midwinter sunset. There is a tumulus and a dewpond nearby on this alignment. The name was theorised to be from a name for the sun, Christianised to "Hell".

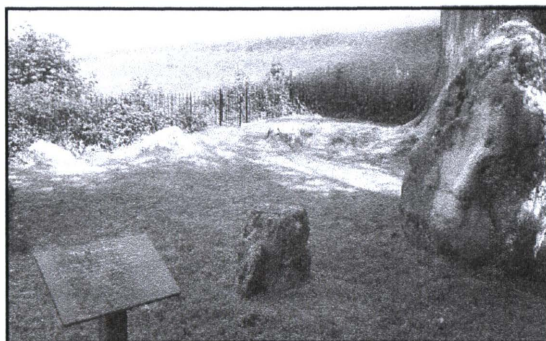


The Hellstone Dolmen

Going up the opposite track, we were shown a puddingstone (conglomerate stone) at the end of a wall and a sarsen in the hedge, before coming to the Hampton Hill stone circle. This has a Beltane alignment with St. Catherine's Hill and the Hardy Monument.

After lunch at Portesham, we visited three sites in alignment with each other. The first was the overgrown Moot Stone, then the Grey Mare and her Colts long barrow, which had had a low chamber and a few skeletons, but Peter felt it could also have been a dream chamber, perhaps dedicated to Epona because of the name. It is aligned to the summer solstice sunset, and midwinter sunrise, where it rose in Neolithic times.

The third was the Goddess Stone, which as well as being on this line is also on one to Stonehenge, passing through the Nine Stones circle at Winterborne Abbas and two tumuli in the area.



The Nine Stones, showing the ridge the midwinter sun travels along

Finally we visited the Nine Stones themselves - a site with a very peaceful atmosphere. Peter has found there are solar alignments between several pairs of the stones; Beltane/Lammas sunrise, equinox sunrise and sunset, summer solstice sunset and high winter moonrise. There are also two other leys in addition to the Goddess Stone to Stonehenge one - one from several stones and tumuli through Martinstown Church, Maiden Castle, Lords Barrow and

Flowers Barrow hillfort; the other to Robins Barrow through several tumuli, Giles cross and Long Coppice.

We saw how the Nine Stones circle has been positioned so that landscape features mark sunrise points; summer solstice sunrise by the meeting point of two hills, and Lammas sunrise by the tumuli on Pound Hill (this is also the ley to Robins Barrow).

TEMS FIELD TRIP: ST. ALBANS AND SOUTH HERTS Sun. 28 June 2009 by Lionel Beer

Bob, Charles & Jill, Gina, Jimmy, John, Lynn & hubby, and I met up at the Roman Theatre car park on the western edge of St.Albans. The gate keeper and ticket issuer told us about the Gorhambury Estate, where Sir Francis Bacon was once resident at Old Gorhambury House (EH). Gorhambury Mansion, the later house, is only open on Thursday afternoon. Group rate for the Theatre was £2 a head. It is rated a unique example in the UK and there is another at Caerleon. They should not to be confused with amphitheatres of which several exist. The turfbanks were suffering from soil erosion and a profusion of rabbits. The floor of the stage has gone apart from brick plinths. It is said that the auditorium could take up



TEMS members at the St. Albans puddingstone

to 7,000 spectators. On this site were excavated shops and an underground shrine.

Across the road is St.Michael's churchyard. We walked down from St.Michael's Church to see a large puddingstone (breedingstone, angelstone, motherstone, hagstone or witchstone) on a triangle of grass by Kingsbury Watermill and waffle cafe by the bridge over the River Ver. We had already spotted a couple of lumps at the Roman Theatre. These flint conglomerates, formed 60 million years ago, were thought to have had magical qualities and were able to ward off 'evil'.

Next we drove up the A4147 to locate with difficulty, Valley Road, which bisects Beech Bottom Dyke. This huge ditch, missed by most tourists, runs for about a mile. It is said to have been dug by the powerful Catuvellauni Belgic tribe in the Iron Age. It is still 30 foot deep and 90 foot wide in places being mainly sheltered by Beech Trees.

After surmounting major parking problems we picnicked in Verulamium Park and strolled across to the stand-alone structure housing a nicely restored mosaic and hypocaust.

Our next stop was St.Michael's Church (open at 2pm) which has an alabaster monument to Sir Francis Bacon. The "Doom" is a mediaeval painted oak panel depicting the Last Judgement. Parts of the building date back to Saxon times - Abbot Ulsinus in AD 948.

We then headed towards Cuffley stopping at Welham Green, part of North Mimms, to see the "Balloon Stone" placed at Balloon Corner in 1960. This is where Vincenzo Lunardi of Lucca in Tuscany (where Jimmy's mother-in-law also came from) made his first landing on 15 September 1784. He had taken off in a hydrogen balloon from the Hon. Artillery Company's Moorfields parade ground before a crowd of 100,000. In the basket with him were his cat, dog and a pigeon. 13 miles later, Elizabeth Brett, a farm maid, was persuaded to hang on to a rope to bring the apparatus down. Vincenzo handed out his frozen pussy and gave her five guineas pending his return. He released some ballast and flew in a new direction to Standen Green End, where a more lavish memorial stone can be found. Lunardi's sponsor, George Biggin had a lady-friend and actress called Mrs.Letitia Sage. Eventually her chance came on 29 June 1785, when she made an hour's flight with George. Thereafter Letty promoted herself as the First British Female Air Traveller. Undoubtedly an attractive lady, she needed a lot of hydrogen as she tipped the scales at 200 lb (91 kilos).

We stopped briefly at Moffats lane, Brookman's Park, to learn that Dr. Thomas Muffet, (died 1604), a keen entomologist with a fascination for spiders, may have lived at Moffats Farm. He is said to written the famous nursery rhyme for his daughter Patience. (You may not find Tuffet in your dictionary and we used to call them pouffes, but then that wouldn't rhyme?)

Just down the road - once part of the Great North Road, we came to Swanley Bar, the focal

point being the huge red-brick triumphal "Folly Arch" built 1754. A tree-lined avenue once led to renowned Pleasure Gardens, with Lions' Den, Temple and bowling green, all part of the Gobions estate. Amongst the woods there are swallow holes, which as one of our group aptly put it, were the reverse of springs. (Of much interest to water companies)

The last stop was at St. Thomas a Becket Church, Northaw, rebuilt in 1882 following a major fire. It is an interesting example of Victorian high Gothic style with painted walls and brightly coloured windows. Worth a visit but rarely mentioned in Hertfordshire guide books. About 5.30 pm we reached Joy's home in Cuffley where a diverse range of food, fruits and drink was presented and consumed on her small patio and garden area.

NOTES AND NEWS

LONDON EARTH MYSTERIES CIRCLE MEETINGS

7.15 P.M. Tuesdays, at the Theosophical Society, 50, Gloucester Place, London.

September 22nd - Theosophy: The Perennial Wisdom, by Ron Wallwork

October 13th - Leys and Leylines - Where have they Led? by Alan Bowers

October 27th - The Rollright Stones: a Local Perspective, by Julia Phillips

November 10th - An Unseelie Gift by Debbie Gallagher

November 24th - Geosophy: Defining the Landscape's Mystifying appeal and Spirit, by David Lowe

December 8th - Open Forum

Next date - **12 Jan 2010**

TEMS MEETINGS

2.00 p.m. Sundays at Wimbledon unless otherwise stated - please ring 0208-544-9478

Sunday 23rd August - The Buckingham Palace Ley, by Jimmy Goddard, at 'Weirside', off Frimley Road, Ash Vale, Surrey *cancelled*

Sunday 27th September - NDEs and other phenomena at the time of death' by Dr Peter Fenwick

Sunday 25th October - Keith Harmon 'Just Divine' (Dowsing: audience participation required!)

Sunday 29th November - To be advised

Sunday 13th December - Christmas Party at 115 Holly Bush Lane Hampton, Please ring Lionel at 020 8979 3148

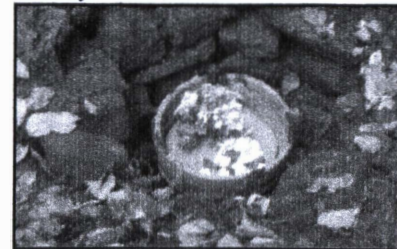
Bishop Jocelin's Crozier

The legend of Bishop Jocelin of Wells and the dragon was mentioned in the last issue; a mosaic about it is by the Bishop's Palace moat. So it was a surprise to me to find in the cathedral library, a crozier head (the crozier is the bishop's crook, his staff of office) thought to be Jocelin's was on display. It was found in Wells in the early nineteenth century. The distinctive point about it is that it features dragons. There is a depiction of St. Michael killing

the dragon in the centre of the crook, but the crook itself is also a dragon and looks as if it is attacking Michael from behind! There are also three dragons seemingly running round the base of the crozier head.

A Burial at Beacon Hill

On the evening of the summer solstice the Beacon Hill Society re-interred the bones that had been excavated from



the tumulus on Beacon Hill near Shepton Mallet, which has the "tangential centre" of three leys touching

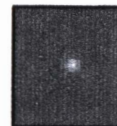
the edge of a circular earthwork, described in a previous issue. The bones had been found to be those of a young woman aged between 18 and 25, who died about 1600 BC. The Society had made a replica of the original urn, with a lid describing the bones and giving the date of reburial. A moving poem was read and flowers were placed on the urn before it was buried in the mound.



Jocelin's crozier

UFO at the Field of the Cloth of Gold

On June 17th there was a TV programme *Henry VIII Patron or Plunderer?* This visited many of the places which featured in Henry's life, including the Field of the Cloth of Gold, a now almost featureless area of France where the king visited the king of France to make a peace treaty. He built a very flamboyant temporary palace there, and a painting was done depicting the scene. The original of this is in the Royal Collection at Hampton Court, but there was a copy in the *Making History* exhibition of the Society of Antiquaries, from an eighteenth century engraving of it.

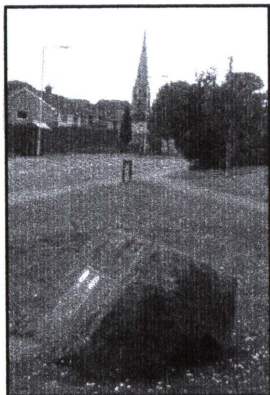


The place as it is today was shown, presumably to contrast with the ornate temporary town as it was then, with its fountains flowing with wine. But it turned out to be not as featureless as they thought - for as the camera panned across the open virtually empty space that once hosted the historic event, a round object flew across the sky, finally disappearing by fading from sight without slowing down. The whole thing could not have lasted more than about two sec-

onds if that, and the commentary, of course, continued as if it had not happened. I was able to obtain stills by capturing them from the BBC iPlayer, and noted that there seems to be a shadow one side of the circular object, showing it to be solid and not a light phenomenon. Looking at the picture again, which I had seen when visiting its copy in the exhibition, I was suprised to see a depiction of a dragon flying over the scene. Was this to emphasise Henry's Welsh roots, as had been discussed earlier in the programme, or was there actually something seen in the sky that day, as Henry rode in?

The Hoker Stone

There is a stone outside the entrance to Wells Museum that is described by the Museum as a "hoker stone", a holed stone which in local tradition was used for sealing bargains. It was in the possession of Henry Balch, founder and curator of the museum. It was originally from Tor Hill, Wells, but in the meantime had been used as a gatepost.



Paray Stone and St. Thomas's Church

Subconsciously sited stone placed on diagonal ley

A stone has been placed on the Wells diagonal ley which passes through Swayne's Jumps, within sight of St. Thomas's Church (this, the Cathedral and St. Cuthbert's all align on this ley). It was to commemorate the naming of Paray Drive, to celebrate the twinning of Wells with Paray le Monial in 1979. This is one of many seemingly subconsciously sited stones in Somerset, including roundabout ones at Glastonbury and the circle on the St. Michael Line in Taunton. The Hoker Stone described above is adjacent to the Cathedral and is on the other diagonal ley, described in the last issue!



Hoker Stone

LETTERS

from Norman Darwen, Lostock, Bolton, Lancashire:

It was good to see the focus on the city of Wells in Touchstone 85. I stayed there back in the mid-eighties and stopped in a very old hotel near the centre and close to the cathedral, though I unfortunately no longer recall its name. The owner - it was a family owned business - did tell me that it was haunted; this may have been to amuse/thrill the guests but it certainly had atmosphere!

I was saddened to hear of the death of John Michell. I only met him once, at the Ley Hunter Moot in London (1986?) I had just bought a copy of John's "A Little History of Astro-Archaeology" when he came walking across the room (I recognised him as there had been

an article on him in one of London's evening newspapers - with photo - not long before). To say I was star-struck is to put it mildly! He noticed the book I was holding and smiled, so I asked if he would autograph it for me. "Of course" he replied, and proceeded to do so. I muttered something about how much I enjoyed his writing and he thanked me; he made me feel as if I was doing him a favour! A charming man...

from Sheila Broun, Radstock, Somerset:

I got really excited when I read the article in *Touchstone* about the Tor pig. Unfortunately the bias of the researchers seems to have led them astray - too keen to ascribe everything to the invading Christians. I was interested to find that in ancient times Glastonbury would not have been a place to live as it was a place of the Dead. Habitation would have been out on the moors. Meare seems a very powerful sacred site. The other Lake Village seems more about everyday life. Within the Tor are said to live Morgen (very ancient Fate Goddess also worshipped in Brittany) with Her Cauldron of Death and Rebirth, and the Faerie King Gwyn Ap Nudd. The sacred animal of the Dark Goddess is the Sow, and the King of the Underworld takes the form of a Boar. The totem of the Roman legion that occupied Bath was also a Boar, which may have lent them some fateful ascription on the part of local peoples. Thus in Greece, Kirke turned Odysseus and his men into swine to experience the inner mysteries of the Dark Goddess. The symbol of the Eleusinian Mysteries on the coins of Eleusis - the major Mother/Demeter, Daughter/Persephone religion of ancient Greece - was of a Sow. The slang word for women's genitals to this day in Italy, is 'pig'. Similarly in Bath, Bladud, a historical King of Britain, became a mythic swineherd, and was led into the healing waters by a sow, which healed his leprosy. Keridwen was also the Goddess of the Cauldron, who took the form of a Sow. As was Henwen - the Great White Sow. In Tibet, the Dalai Lama's female equivalent is known as the Representative of the Adamantine Sow on Earth.



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THE HIDDEN UNITY and BEGINNINGS

The Hidden Unity looks at the strange phenomenon of subconscious siting of ley points, and notes that places of worship, of all religions and all ages, tend to predominate on leys. The environmental and philosophical implications of this are discussed, and the apparent necessity of worship but irrelevance of doctrine. Two ley centres are given as examples, and investigated in depth - the Shah Jehan Mosque in Woking and the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple, Scunthorpe. There is an appendix by Eileen Grimshaw on the significance of the Pagan religion to this study. Illustrated with photographs, maps and line drawings. **£2 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.**

Beginnings is about a series of potentially useful discoveries, mainly made by Jimmy Goddard over a period of about twenty years, but having some overlap with discoveries made by others. For various reasons, the investigations are all in their early stages, and some have not been continued. They include earth energy detection, natural antigravity, subconscious siting, ley width, and the olar transition effect. There is also a chapter on cognitive dissonance - a psychological factor which seems to have been at the root of all bigotry - scientific, religious and other - down the ages. The booklet is concluded with an account of the discovery of leys by Alfred Watkins. **£2 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.**

EARTH PEOPLE, SPACE PEOPLE

In 1961, Tony Wedd produced a manuscript *Earth Men, Space Men*, detailing many claims of extraterrestrial contact. It was never published, and I had thought it was lost, though it has recently been located - Tony had given it to Timothy Good. To try to make up for the loss in a much more modest size, this booklet was prepared. As well as giving details of some of the more prominent contact claims, there are articles on the history of the STAR Fellowship and some of its personalities, evidence for life in the Solar System and investigation into extraterrestrial language.

£2 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.

THE LEGACY OF TONY WEDD

This CD-ROM is an electronic form of the travelling exhibition Tony planned, using his voice, writing, photographs and drawings to illustrate his research and findings in the fields of flying saucers, landscape energies and lost technology.

£12 from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.

TOUCHSTONE is the newsletter of the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group. £2 for four quarterly issues from J. Goddard, 1, St. Paul's Terrace, Easton, Wells, Somerset, BA5 1DX. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard. IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE AN "X" WILL FOLLOW THIS SENTENCE: